

## Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

NIC-01 NSCE-00 /066 W

----- 084430

R 250159Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4304

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MOPS CH TW HK

SUBJ: AMNESTIED "WAR CRIMINALS"

REF: A) HONG KONG 3004; B) HONG KONG 2882

SUMMARY: THE RECENTLY-AMNESTIED KMT "WAR CRIMINALS" MARCH 23 WERE RECEIVED BY STATE AND PARTY LEADERS, HEADED BY VICE PREMIER AND PARTY VICE CHAIRMAN YEH CHIEN-YING. THE HONG KONG COMMUNIST PRESS HAS CARRIED A NUMBER OF ARTICLE ON THE RELEASE, WHICH HAS BECOME A MAJOR PROPAGANDA EFFORT LOCALLY, INDICATING THAT MANY OF THE EX-PRISONERS WILL BE ACTIVE IN "UNITED FRONT" ACTIVITIES IN THE FUTURE. END SUMMARY

1. HIGH RANKING PRC PARTY AND STATE LEADERS HEADED BY YEH CHIEN-YING, HUA KUO-FENG AND WU TEH AND OTHERS NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH "UNITED FRONT" ACTIVITIES HAVE NOW RECEIVED RELEASES. VICE PREMIER YEH SPOKE AT THE RECEPTION, INVOKING FREELY THE NAME OF CHAIRMAN MAO, AND REPEATING THE PRC PROMISES OF JOBS,  
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MEDICAL CARE, RETURN TO TAIWAN, ETC., (REF B). YEH ALSO

INDICATED THAT THE RELEASED PRISONER S COULD VISIT FACTORIES, VILLAGES AND SCHOOLS " AROUND PEKING" THEN STATED (IN WHAT COULD BE CONSIDERED A FORMULA) THAT "YOU CAN RECALL THE PAST, LOOK AT THE PRESENT, AND MAKE A COMPARISON".

2. IN RE PONSE, THREE RELEASED LEADERS THANKED MAO AND THE PARTY, APOLOGIZED FOR THEIR " TOWERING CRIMES" AND PROMISED TO STUDY MARX, ENGELS , LENIN , STALIN AND MAO. SOME OF THE PRISONERS, WHO MUST ALL BE RATHER AGED,ARE HOSPITALIZED AND RECEIVED THEIR RELEASE NOTICES FROM SUPREME COURT REPRESENTATIVES, WHO VISITED THEM.

3. THE HONG KONG COMMUNIST-OWNED PRESS HAS BEEN FEATURING THE RELEASE, INCLUDING A FRONT-PAGE PICTURE OF THE LEADING EX-PRISONER, FORMER LT. GENERAL HUANG WEI WITH HIS WIFE, DAUGHTER, AND GRANDSON. AMONG THE COVERAGE HAVE BEEN COMMENTS BY UNNAMED EX-KMT MEMBER IN HONG KONG, INCLUDING AN INTERVIEW WITH AN OLD FRIEND OF HUANG WEI; A FEATURE ARTICLE WRITTEN BY SUNG HSI-LIEN, WHO WAS AMONG THE FIRST GROUP OF KMT "WAR CRIMINALS" RELEASED IN DECEMBER 1959; AND A ROUND-UP OF FOREIGN PRESS AGENCIES' COMMENTS. THE LATTER INCLUDED SPECULATION THAT THE RELEASE INDICATED POLITICAL STABILITY AND SOLIDARITY WITHIN CHINA AND WAS RELATED TO THE PRC'S DESIRE TO LIBERATE TAIWAN.

4. COMMENT: THE HEAVY PRESS EXPOSURE OF THE RELEASED MEN INDICATES THAT AT LEAST SOME OF THEM WILL CONTINUE TO BE INVOLVED IN " UNITED FRONT" ACTIVITIES AND WILL PLAY A ROLE IN URGING THEIR FORMER COMRADES NOW RESIDING IN TAIWAN TO WORK FOR REUNIFICATION WITH THE MOTHERLAND. TOURS " AROUND PEKING" WILL PROBABLY BE EXTENDED TO TOURS AROUND THE COUNTRY, AND ESPECIALLY TO THEIR NATIVE CITIES, BY THE RELEASEES TO PUBLICIZE THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS UNDER PRC RULE. AT WHAT POINT THE PRC MAY ATTEMPT TO PUSH ITS PROPAGANDA ADVANTAGE FURTHER BY HAVING CERTAIN RELEASEES SEEK ENTRY TO TAIWAN REMAINS TO BE SEEN BUT WE WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT IT WOULD NOT BE UNTIL AFTER THE RELEASEES HAD MADE STRONG (AND SO FAR AS TAIWAN IS CONCERNED, INCRIMINATING) STATEMENTS COMPARING PRESENT CONDITIONS FAVORABLY TO PRE-1949 CONDITIONS. HEY REITERATED BUT DID NOT EMPHASIZE THE POSSIBILITY OF TRAVEL TO TAIWAN IN HIS SPEECH.

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5. MEANWHILE, FOREIGN PRESS AGENCY MATERIALS, OR AT LEAST THOSE REPLAYED BY THE HONG KONG COMMUNIST PRESS, INDICATE THAT THE PRC CONTINUES TO MAKE CONSIDERABLE PROPAGANDA MILEAGE OUT OF THE RELEASE.

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